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5 November 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR:

Chief, BGI/GD
1011 Magazine Bldg.

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SUBJECT : ONE/FE Request for Geographic Study of Sabah

REFERENCE : Telecon of 1 November 1968 with
Chief, BGI/GD/F.

1. We are requesting the preparation of a geographic study on the Malaysian state of Sabah, currently the subject of an international dispute.

2. We believe that the Sabah dispute is likely to remain unsettled for some time, at least until after the November 1969 Philippine elections, and that a study prepared by your office would help analysts in ONE/FE and elsewhere in the intelligence community who are currently seeking better perspectives on the issue. The value of the study would be greater if it could be completed relatively early, say by the first of March.

3. The elements of greatest interest to this office in such a study are: a very concise historical background

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of the dispute, including some judgments on the merits of the Philippine case; the demographic aspects of the situation, including ethnic links to the Sulu region; the present and potential economic value of the territory; and those physical elements related to the feasibility of Philippine paramilitary activity in the area or along its shores. In connection with the last point, the preparation of a map large enough in scale to permit analysts to follow any such activity would be especially helpful.

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4. [REDACTED] of this office are the working-level analysts most closely concerned with The Sabah issue.

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[REDACTED]
Chief, FE Staff
Office of National
Estimates

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